Trend Study 3-3-01

Study site name: Clay Basin.

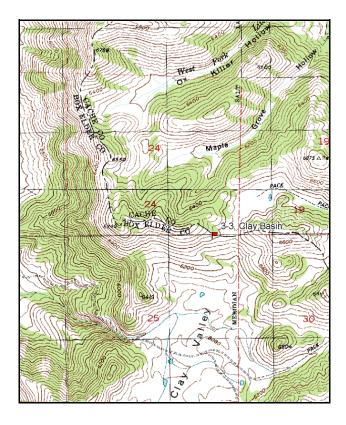
Vegetation type: Big Sagebrush-Grass.

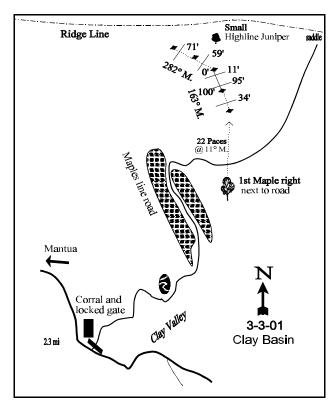
Compass bearing: frequency baseline 163 degrees magnetic.

Frequency belt placement: Line 1 (11 & 95ft), line 2 (34ft), line 3 (59ft), line 4 (71ft).

LOCATION DESCRIPTION

From Mantua Hatchery, proceed 0.65 mile (towards Mantua) to first possible right turn. Turn right and proceed 2.3 miles up the canyon to Clay Valley and stop at a locked gate on the east end of the corral. Cross the gate and begin walking down the road in a northern direction. You will pass a stock pond on the left side of the road. After approximately 0.75 miles, the road will pass through a dense stand of maples. Hook sharply to the right and break out of the maples. Proceed 54 paces past switchback to first lone maple on right side of the road. From the maple, walk approximately 22 paces on a bearing of 11 degrees magnetic to the 200-foot stake of the baseline. The 0-foot baseline stake is 200 feet at a bearing of 343 degrees magnetic and is marked by browse tag #7997. The first 200 feet of the baseline run 163 degrees magnetic. The second 200 feet run off the 0-foot baseline stake at a bearing of 282 degrees magnetic.





Map Name: Mantua

Township 9N, Range 1W, Section 25

Diagrammatic Sketch

UTM 4593957 N 425426 E

DISCUSSION

Trend Study No. 3-3

The <u>Clay Basin</u> study is east of Mantua in Clay Valley. Situated at a relatively high elevation (6,320 feet), the site is on a 30%, south-facing slope occupied by a mountain big sagebrush-grass community. Although within the limits of deer winter range, there were few signs of any significant deer use from 1984-1996. Currently, there appears to be moderate use by deer and light use by elk. Pellet group transect data taken in 2001 estimated 61 deer days use/acre (150 ddu/ha) and 3 elk days use/acre (8 edu/ha). Spring and summer sheep grazing was obvious during the 1984 reading, but was light in 1996 and 2001. Cattle were using the area during the 1996 reading. Use was considered light on site, with heavy use being observed in the bottoms near water. Livestock use on site was estimated at 2 cow days use/acre (5 cdu/ha) in 2001.

Soil at the study site is "Yeates Hollow Stony Loam", a well-drained, moderately deep soil derived from sandstone and quartzite. It is rocky or cobbly on the surface, and usually dries completely in the upper 4 to 12 inches after 60 to 90 consecutive days in summer (Chadwick et al. 1975). Although this soil type has a moderate erosion hazard, the current erosion condition classification ('01) determined soils to be stable. Protective cover provided by vegetation and litter prevent all but minor erosion. Soils at the site have a clay loam texture and a soil reaction that is slightly acidic (pH of 6.3). Effective rooting depth (see methods) was estimated at just over 12 inches. Gravel is abundant throughout the profile. Bare ground is rare and usually associated with cattle trails. Organic matter is relatively high at over 5%.

The key browse species is a vigorous stand of mountain big sagebrush which provides over 90% of the browse cover. Other shrubs such as mountain snowberry and stickyleaf low rabbitbrush are sparsely distributed throughout the area. The mountain big sagebrush population is stable with mostly light to occasionally moderate hedging. Density is estimated at 2,620, mostly mature, plants/acre in 2001. Recruitment from young plants declined from 23% in 1996 to 2% in 2001. This decline is most likely due to the extended drought as well as competition with the abundant herbaceous understory. Decadence was moderately high in 1990 at 42%, but has since declined to 18% in 1996 and 2001. Vigor is normal on all except a few decadent shrubs. Annual leader growth was relatively low at just over 2 inches in 2001, but seed production was abundant.

Perennial grasses show exceptionally vigorous growth and consist of a wide variety of species. Among the most frequently occurring are bluebunch wheatgrass, bulbous bluegrass, Sandberg bluegrass and Kentucky bluegrass. Bulbous bluegrass has significantly increased in nested frequency every year since the site was established in 1984. Bluebunch wheatgrass is currently ('01) second in abundance to bulbous bluegrass. In 1996, Japanese brome was extremely abundant providing 33% of the grass cover and 21% of total vegetative cover at the site. Due to drought conditions in 2000 and 2001, this species dramatically declined between 1996 and 2001. It currently ('01) provides only 2% of the grass cover. Slightly lower on the slope are significant amounts of slender wheatgrass, mountain brome, smooth brome, subalpine needlegrass, crested wheatgrass and Great Basin wildrye. Grasses show evidence of light to negligible grazing use.

Forbs are diverse yet have not been particularly abundant. Weedy forb species include western yarrow, thistle, willowweed, dyers woad, prickly lettuce, sunflower, tarweed and yellow salsify which accounted for the majority of the forb cover in 1996. Silvery lupine is currently the most abundant forb due to a dramatic increase in 2001. Many of the more palatable forb species had been moderately grazed by sheep during the 1984 reading.

1984 APPARENT TREND ASSESSMENT

Soil trend appears stable. Erosion is slight due to a good vegetative cover on a gentle to moderate slope. Vegetative trend also seems stable, at least temporarily. However, there is a potential for change. Grass density may be thickening at the expense of desirable forbs, perhaps in response to the grazing habits of sheep. Such a trend could also inhibit sagebrush reproduction. Another possibility is an increase of undesirable weeds and annuals. These are common on the study area and could easily become more so.

1990 TREND ASSESSMENT

This privately owned sagebrush/grass range in Clay basin has recently been grazed by cattle and receives moderate winter deer use. Mountain big sagebrush has remained stable and vigorous since 1984. Seedling and young sagebrush commonly occur in limited areas, but were not sampled by the density plots. The majority of the sagebrush have a light or moderately hedged growth form. Trend for herbaceous species is slightly up with significant increases in the nested frequency of the desirable perennial grasses, bluebunch wheatgrass and Sandberg bluegrass. One negative aspect is the increase in dyer's woad which should be closely monitored in the future. Cheatgrass remains a commonly occurring undesirable. Under the current management and grazing by cattle instead of sheep, the trends for winter range values appear stable.

TREND ASSESSMENT

soil - stable (3)

browse - stable, with sagebrush slightly increasing (3)

herbaceous understory - slightly up (4)

1996 TREND ASSESSMENT

Trend for soil is up due to a decline in percent bare ground (12% to 2%). Litter cover increased while rock and pavement cover declined from 13% to 4%. Trend for mountain big sagebrush is stable. Population density declined somewhat, but much of the decline is due to the much larger sample used in 1996 which gives a much better estimate of sagebrush densities. Dead plants are fairly rare (220 plants/acre or 7%), indicative of a stable population. Utilization is mostly light, decadence has declined from 42% to 18%, and recruitment is high at 23%. Trend for the herbaceous understory is slightly down. The herbaceous understory is dominated by bulbous bluegrass and Japanese brome. Nested frequency for bluebunch wheatgrass has increased significantly since 1990, but nested frequency for Kentucky bluegrass and Sandberg bluegrass have declined. Sum of nested frequency for perennial forbs significantly decreased, while that of annual forbs significantly increased. However, forbs are a minor component as they contribute to only 6% of the total vegetation cover at the site.

TREND ASSESSMENT

soil - up (5)

browse - stable (3)

<u>herbaceous understory</u> - slightly down (2)

2001 TREND ASSESSMENT

Trend for soil is stable. Although bare ground slightly increased, vegetation and litter cover are adequate to prevent serious erosion. An erosion condition classification determined soils to be stable at the present time. Trend for browse is stable. The key species, mountain big sagebrush, remains at a nearly stable density. Percent recruitment declined from 23% to 2%, but percent decadence is unchanged since 1996. Vigor is good in the majority of the population as use remains light to moderate. Trend for the herbaceous understory is

slightly up. Sum of nested frequency for perennial grasses and forbs increased in 2001. Although much of this increase is due to the increase in bulbous bluegrass, a low value perennial, Japanese brome dramatically decreased in nested and quadrat frequencies in 2001.

TREND ASSESSMENT

<u>soil</u> - stable (3)<u>browse</u> - stable (3)

herbaceous understory - slightly up (4)

HERBACEOUS TRENDS --

Herd unit 03, Study no: 3

T Species y	Nested	Freque	ncy		Quadra	ıt Frequ	ency		Average Cover %		
p e	'84	'90	'96	'01	'84	'90	'96	'01	'96	'01	
G Agropyron spicatum	_a 28	ь87	_c 156	_c 176	10	31	68	65	8.15	11.82	
G Agropyron trachycaulum	2	2	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	.00	
G Bromus japonicus (a)	-	-	_b 293	_a 64	-	-	87	30	12.51	.86	
G Bromus marginatus	-	3	-	I	ı	1	1	ı	I	ı	
G Bromus tectorum (a)	-	-	25	29	-	-	9	10	.31	.64	
G Koeleria cristata	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
G Melica bulbosa	44	36	15	28	19	21	9	12	.22	.17	
G Poa bulbosa	_a 18	_b 63	_c 213	_d 307	6	26	68	91	12.98	19.38	
G Poa pratensis	_{ab} 79	_b 97	_a 44	_b 86	30	41	20	33	1.30	3.42	
G Poa secunda	_a 20	_b 129	_b 87	_a 41	8	49	33	20	2.44	.68	
G Stipa columbiana	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	.15	
Total for Annual Grasses	0	0	318	93	0	0	96	40	12.83	1.50	
Total for Perennial Grasses	192	417	515	642	75	170	198	223	25.12	35.64	
Total for Grasses	192	417	833	735	75	170	294	263	37.95	37.15	
F Achillea millefolium	_b 99	_b 87	_a 51	_{ab} 51	39	34	25	27	.89	1.21	
F Agoseris glauca	_b 50	_b 37	_a 10	_{ab} 32	20	18	5	17	.02	.26	
F Allium acuminatum	_c 44	_b 14	a ⁻	_{ab} 3	20	8	-	1	-	.03	
F Alyssum alyssoides (a)	-	-	25	11	-	-	11	7	.05	.06	
F Arabis spp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.00	
F Aster spp.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
F Astragalus spp.	_b 20	_b 28	a_	a ⁻	12	10	-	-	-	-	
F Camelina microcarpa (a)	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	.00	-	
F Calochortus nuttallii	5	6	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	
F Cirsium undulatum	_a 3	_b 23	_{ab} 16	_{ab} 11	3	12	7	6	.77	.30	
F Collomia linearis (a)	-	-	_b 28	_a 1	-	-	16	1	.08	.00	
F Collinsia parviflora (a)	-	-	_a 1	_b 9	-	-	1	3	.00	.01	
F Crepis acuminata	3	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	.00	-	

T y p	Species	Nested	Freque	ncy		Quadra	ıt Frequ	ency		Average Cover %	
e		'84	'90	'96	'01	'84	'90	'96	'01	'96	'01
F	Cryptantha spp.	-	-	3	3	-	-	2	1	.03	.00
F	Draba spp. (a)	-	-	1	10	-	-	1	5	.00	.02
F	Epilobium brachycarpum (a)	-	-	_b 39	_a 3	-	-	16	2	.35	.01
F	Eriogonum brevicaule	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	.03
F	Erodium cicutarium (a)	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	2	-	.06
F	Galium aparine (a)	-	-	_b 11	a ⁻	-	-	5	-	.10	-
F	Geranium spp.	3	-	3	-	1	-	1	-	.01	-
F	Gilia spp. (a)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	.00
F	Grindelia squarrosa	-	2	-	4	-	1	-	2	-	.53
F	Helianthus annuus (a)	-	5	13	3	-	3	5	1	.10	.00
F	Holosteum umbellatum (a)	-	-	41	35	-	-	16	18	.22	.15
F	Isatis tinctoria	_a 9	_b 109	_a 6	_a 5	5	47	4	2	.04	.03
F	Lappula occidentalis (a)	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	.00	.00
F	Lactuca serriola	a_	_b 75	_a 1	_a 3	-	32	1	1	.00	.00
F	Lupinus argenteus	_a 23	_a 33	_a 21	_b 118	13	16	11	55	.47	7.05
F	Madia glomerata (a)	-	_{ab} 11	_b 19	_a 3	-	5	8	1	.21	.00
F	Microsteris gracilis (a)	9	-	6	-	4	-	2	-	.03	-
F	Phlox longifolia	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
F	Polygonum douglasii (a)	-	-	35	-	-	-	20	-	.10	-
F	Senecio multilobatus	_b 53	_a 7	a-	_a 8	26	2	-	4	-	.02
F	Taraxacum officinale	_a 3	_b 13	_a 1	a ⁻	1	6	1	-	.00	-
F	Tragopogon dubius	_a 11	_c 117	_a 13	_b 63	7	53	6	34	.08	1.63
F	Unknown forb-perennial	a ⁻	_b 25	a-	a ⁻	-	14	-	-	-	-
F	Viola spp.	a ⁻	_b 19	a-	a-	-	12	-	-	-	-
Т	otal for Annual Forbs	9	16	223	82	4	8	103	42	1.28	0.34
Т	otal for Perennial Forbs	327	597	126	304	151	271	64	151	2.34	11.13
Т	otal for Forbs	336	613	349	386	155	279	167	193	3.62	11.48

Values with different subscript letters are significantly different at alpha = 0.10 (annuals excluded)

BROWSE TRENDS --

Herd unit 03, Study no: 3

T y p	Species	Strip Frequer	ncy	Average Cover %	
e		'96	'01	'96	'01
В	Acer grandidentatum	1	1	.03	.15
В	Artemisia tridentata vaseyana	78	73	16.62	23.46
В	Chrysothamnus nauseosus albicaulis	2	2	.03	-
В	Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus viscidiflorus	2	3	.03	.00
В	Gutierrezia sarothrae	1	0	-	1
В	Juniperus osteosperma	1	1	.53	.03
В	Symphoricarpos oreophilus	6	9	.21	1.50
To	otal for Browse	91	89	17.45	25.14

CANOPY COVER --

Herd unit 03, Study no: 3

Species	Percent Cover
	'01
Acer grandidentatum	.60
Juniperus osteosperma	1

BASIC COVER --

Herd unit 03, Study no: 3

Cover Type	Nested Frequen	су	Average Cover %							
	'96	'01	'84	'90	'96	'01				
Vegetation	383	371	3.00	14.25	58.50	67.65				
Rock	50	25	3.75	1.75	.58	.28				
Pavement	154	136	3.50	10.75	3.86	1.87				
Litter	398	391	76.25	61.50	66.88	55.39				
Cryptogams	9	24	.50	0	.07	.15				
Bare Ground	88	130	13.00	11.75	2.17	5.49				

SOIL ANALYSIS DATA --

Herd Unit 03, Study no: 03, Clay Basin

Effective rooting depth (in)	Temp °F (depth)	РН	%sand	%silt	%clay	%0M	PPM P	РРМ К	dS/m
12.3	61.0 (13.4)	6.3	28.7	42.0	29.3	5.3	29.3	240.0	.5

743

Stoniness Index Clay Basin, Study # 03 - 03 20 40 60 100 Percent Frequency

PELLET GROUP FREQUENCY --

Herd unit 03, Study no: 3

Туре	Quadra Freque	
	'96	'01
Sheep	1	-
Elk	3	-
Deer	7	22
Cattle	4	1

Pellet T	ransect
Pellet Groups per Acre	Days Use per Acre (ha)
0 01	0 01
-	1
44	3 (8)
792	61 (150)
26	2 (5)

BROWSE CHARACTERISTICS --Herd unit 03, Study no: 3

	Y R	Form	Clas	ss (No	o. of F	Plants))					Vigor	Class	S			Plants Per Acre	Average (inches)	Total
E	10		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	2	3	4	1 01 71010	Ht. Cr.	
A	cer g	grandi	denta	tum															
Y	84		_	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_		-	-	-	0		0
	90		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	0		0
	96		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1		-	-	-	20		1
	01		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	0		0
M	84		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	0	-	- 0
	90		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	0	-	- 0
	96		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	0	22 2	29 0
	01		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		-	-	-	20	-	- 1
%	Plar	nts Sh	owin	g	Mod	derate	Use	Hea	ıvy Us	se_	Po	oor Vig	or				(%Change	
			'84	_	00%	o		00%	6		00)%						_	
			'90		00%	ó		00%	o		00)%							
			'96		00%	ó		00%	o		00)%					-	+ 0%	
			'01		00%	ó		00%	o		00)%							
T	stal I	Dlante	/Acre	(evc	dudin	n Dea	d & Se	adlin	ac)						'84		0	Dec:	
'	mai i	iants	ACIC	(CAC	ruum	g DCa	u & S	Culling	50)						'90		0	DCC.	[]
															'96		20		_ [
															'01		20		-

A G	Y R	Form C	lass (N	lo. of	Plants)					Vigor C	lass			Plants Per Acre	Average (inches)		Total
E	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	T CI ACIC	Ht. Cr.		
Aı	rtemi	isia tride	ntata v	aseya	na													
S	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	96	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	100			5
Ш	01	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	40			2
Y	84	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	66			1
	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	96	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	660			33
Ш	01	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	40			2
M	84	25	16	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	3066	29	43	46
	90	22	3	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	2200		38	33
	96	79	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	86	-	-	-	1720		41	86
Ш	01	93	13	-	-		-	-	-	-	100	5	1	-	2120	27	42	106
D	84	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	2	-	400			6
	90	16	4	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	20	2	2	-	1600			24
	96	22	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	3	520			26
	01	13	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	2	-	5	460			23
X	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	220 380			11 19
Н	01	-	<u>-</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-				19
%	Plan	nts Show			<u>derate</u>	<u>Use</u>		vy Us	<u>se</u>		or Vigor	<u>r</u>				%Change	<u>e</u>	
		'84		349			13%				l%					+ 7%		
		'90 '96		12% 07%			029 009			04	1% 10/					-24% -10%		
		'01		18%			00%				.70 5%				•	-1070		
		01		10/	J		00/	v		0.5	. , 0							
To	otal F	Plants/A	ere (ex	cludin	g Dea	d & Se	eedlin	gs)					' 84	1	3532	Dec	:	11%
			`		_			- /					'9()	3800			42%
													'96		2900			18%
													'01		2620			18%

A Y G R	Form Cl	ass (N	lo. of F	Plants))					Vigor	Class	S			Plants Per Acre	Average (inches)		Total
E	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	2	3	4		Ht. Cr.		
Chryso	thamnus	nause	eosus a	lbicau	ılis													
M 84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	0	-	-	0
90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	0	-	-	0
96 01	1 1	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 1		-	-	-	20 20		60 41	l 1
	1	_	-	-	-	-	_			1		_	-	-		29	41	1
D 84 90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		- -	-	-	$0 \\ 0$			0
96	1	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1		_	_	_	20			1
01	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	1	20			1
% Plan	ts Showi	ng	Mod	derate	Use	Hea	ıvy Us	se_	<u>P</u> (or Vig	or_				(-	%Change	<u> </u>	
	'84		00%			00%)%								
	'90 '96		00% 00%			00% 00%)%)%						. 00/		
	'01		00%			00%)%						+ 0%		
	01		007	·		007	·		50	,,0								
Total P	lants/Ac	re (ex	cluding	g Dea	d & S	eedlin	gs)						'84		0	Dec:		0%
													'90		0			0%
													'96 '01		40 40			50% 50%
Chruso	thamnus	vicoi	lifloru	a rigo	idiflor	116							01		-10			3070
M 84	unammus	VISCI	amoru	5 VISC	idilioi	us									0	_		0
90	- -	-	_	-	_	-	-	-	_	_		- -	-	_	0	_	-	0
96	1	-	_	_	_	_	-	_	_	1		_	_	_	20	12	24	1
01	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3		-	-	-	60	15	24	3
D 84	=	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		_	-	-	0			0
90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	0			0
96	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	,	-	-	1	20			1
01	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	1	20			1
% Plan	ts Showi	ng		derate	Use		vy Us	<u>se</u>		or Vig	<u>or</u>				-	%Change	2	
	'84 '90		00% 00%			00% 00%)%)%								
	'96		00%			00%)%						+50%		
	'01		00%			00%				5%						1 30 70		
Total P	lants/Ac	re (ex	cluding	g Dea	d & Se	eedlin	gs)						'84		0	Dec:		0%
													'90 '96		0			0% 50%
													'01		40 80			50% 25%
													UI		80			45/0

A G	Y R	Form C	ass (N	lo. of l	Plants)					Vigo	or Cla	ass			Plants Per Acre	Average (inches)		Total
E		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		1	2	3	4		Ht. Cr.		
G	ıtier	rezia sar	othrae																
M	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
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	Y R	Form Class (No. of Plants)										Vigor Class				Average (inches)		Total	
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Symphoricarpos oreophilus																			
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